

SOME INTERESTING DIPTERA RECORDS FROM NORTH KENT IN 1982

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In comparison with previous seasons, 1982 was exceptionally good in terms of the diversity of diptera encountered. The species listed below represent some of my more unusual captures during the year, principally from the Swale area of north Kent.

PSYCHODIDAE

Pericoma nubila (Meigen). Specimens were taken in four localities in Kent, although it is most probably widespread wherever there is densely shaded water. 23.iv.82 Oare TR 003624, 24.iv.82 Blean Wood TR 0860, 6.viii.82 Murston TQ 929651 — swept from the banks of a drainage ditch, 11.ix.82 Tonge Mill TQ 932635 — swept from alders. A collection from the latter site also contained the closely related *P. trivialis* Eaton.

Psychoda alternata Say. 9.iv.82 Milton Creek, Murston, TQ 912646. Vast numbers of pupae and emergent adults were present beneath driftwood near to a sewage outlet.

CHIRONOMIDAE

The following species were not recorded from Kent by Coe (1950) and since this family is not popular amongst dipterists they are probably new county records.

Chaetocladius piger (Goetghebuer). 14.iv.82 Murston, TQ 928646 — swept from *Juncus inflexus* L.

Polypedilum arundinetum (Goetghebuer). 19.iv.82 Murston, TQ 930651 swept from *Crataegus monogyna* Jacq.

Kiefferulus tendipediformis (Goetghebuer). 18.vii.82 Murston TQ 9264 swept in rough scrub.

Paratanytarsus inopertus (Walker). 19.iv.82 Murston TQ 930651 swept from ground flora in chestnut coppice.

MYCETOPHILIDAE

Sciophila nonnisilva Hutson (one male) and *Docosia fuscipes* (Roser) (three males) were swept from the banks of a drainage ditch in Blean Wood TR 085609 on 24.iv.82. Both are new to Kent.

STRATIOMYIDAE

Oxycera formosa Meigen. 10.vii.82 Tonge Mill, TQ 932635.

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A single female was swept from a small patch of *Carex* and *Typha* growing by a calcareous mill pond.

Oxycera trilineata (Fabricius). 11.vii.82 and 18.vii.82 Murston, TQ 927651. Several specimens were swept from a willow (*Salix atrocinerea* Brot.) beside a large water-filled clay pit. Large numbers of several diptera species e.g. *Seioptera vibrans* (Linne) *Poecilobothrus nobilitatus* (Linne) and *Morellia* spp. were also to be found, apparently lapping the copious honeydew exudations from the leaves.

Stratiomys longicornis (Scopoli). 10.vii.82 Tonge Lane TQ 932637 one male; 11.vii.82 Murston TQ 927651, one male and one female. All three specimens were observed feeding on the nectar of *Heracleum spondylium* L.

Stratiomys potamida (Meigen). 18.vii.82 Murston TQ 927648, one male on a *Heracleum umbel*.

EMPIDIDAE

Stilpon lunata (Haliday in Walker). 9.x.82 Nagden Marshes TR 026645. A single male of this minute fly was shaken from a grass tussock along the south facing base of a concrete wall.

Rhamphomyia subcinerascens Collin. 8.v.82 Murston TQ 929651. A male was swept from the flowers of *Anthriscus sylvestris* (L.) Hoffm. in a mature oak-chestnut coppice.

Rhamphomyia sulcata (Meigen) 14.iv.82 Bysing wood, near Faversham TQ 998618. A male of this species, which is very similar to the last, was swept at dusk from the earliest blossom of a hawthorn beside a gravel pit.

DOLICHOPODIDAE

Hercostomus plagiatus (Loew). 27.vi.82 Thornden Wood, near Whitstable TR 1463. A single female was taken by general sweeping. A scarce species which has also been taken at Abbey Wood in N. W. Kent.

Hydrophorus praecox (Lehmann). 18.ix.82 Milton Creek, Murston TQ 913646. A single specimen was swept from bare mud on the landward side of a flood prevention bank. Many more specimens of the similar *H. oceanus* (Macquart) were to be found on the exposed junction of the creek with the Swale ('The Lillies').

Chrysotus pulchellus Kowartz. 10.vii.82 Tonge Mill TQ 932635. A single female was taken in the same habitat as the *Oxycera formosa*. Apparently the first Kent record.

PLATYPEZIDAE

Callomyia dives Zetterstedt. 28.viii.82 Torry Hill, Milstead TQ 9156. Two males were taken by general sweeping.

SYRPHIDAE

Leucozona glaucia (Linne). 28.viii.82 Timbold Hill, Frinsted TQ 908566. A single male was found feeding on a late umbel of *Heracleum sphondylium* L. Unfortunately the tube containing the insect was lost during the course of the afternoon so I have no voucher. This is apparently the first sighting in East Kent.

Eristalinus aeneus (Scopoli). This species was extremely abundant throughout the south Swale area in 1982. The first specimens were observed on willow catkins at Murston on 27.11.82. In late summer very many specimens could be found on the flowers of *Aster tripolium* L. along Milton Creek and the Swale.

PLATYSTOMATIDAE

Rivellia syngenesiae (Fabricus). This is by no means as common as our other platystomatid- *Platystoma seminationis* (Linne). Specimens were taken at two sites in Thornden Wood on 9.vi.82 (TR 1464) and 27.vi.82 (TR 1463).

TEPHRITIDAE

Myoleja caesio (Harris). 11.vii.82 Murston TQ 927651, one male; 18.vii.82 Murston TQ 922646, one female. There has been some confusion as to the host plant of this species. Seguy (1934) states that the larvae mine the leaves of *Lychnis diurna* Sibth. (= *dioica* (L.) Clairv.) whereas other authors refer to the fruits of *Sambucus nigra* L. and *Lonicera periclymenum* L. At first sight my specimens appeared to have been swept from *Salix atrocinerea* Brot. but on closer inspection it was noticed that in both instances the willows were growing in very close proximity to elders. I hope to be able to elucidate the situation at a later date.

Myopites frauenfeldi Schiner. 3.viii.82 Murston TQ 922653, 3.ix.82 Harty, Isle of Sheppey TR 037669, 5.ix.82 Murston TQ 925661, 18.ix.82 Milton Creek, Murston TQ 912646. This fly is specifically associated with *Inula crithmoides* L. and is likely to be found wherever the host grows. Many specimens were obtained by sweeping the *Inula* in sharp contrast to the situation with *M. blotii* Brebisson, the larvae of which develop in the flower heads of *Pulicaria dysenterica* (L.) Bernh. Although this plant is very abundant in the Swale area I have only encountered *M. blotii* on three

occasions in the past two years and in each case only single specimens were swept.

Chaetostomiella onotrophes (loew). 14.viii.82 Darland Bank, Gillingham TQ 7965. This appears to be an under-recorded species in Kent although it has a wide range of common composite host plants eg. *Cirsium*, *Carduus*, *Arctium* etc.

SPHAEROCERIDAE

A small collection of sphaerocerids submitted for identification to Brian Pitkin at the BM(NH) revealed three species new to Kent.

Copromyza sordida Zetterstedt. 8.vi.82 Murston TQ 930651 one male swept from the banks of a drainage ditch in an old chestnut coppice; 3.vii.82 Murston TQ 930653 six males swept from horse dung.

Leptocera limosa (Fallen). 6.viii.82 Murston TQ 930651 in chestnut coppice, two males; 3.viii.82 Murston TQ 9265 at dusk in open marshland, one male.

Limosina plumosula Rondani. 16.vi.82 Murston TQ 914644 one female swept in rough scrub; 6.viii.82 Murston TQ 930651 one female swept in chestnut coppice; 3.ix.82 Murston TQ 930651 one male and one female swept in chestnut coppice.

All the specimens have been incorporated into the British Collection at the BM.

PALLOPTERIDAE

Palloptera scutellata Macquart. 27.iii.82 Murston TQ 928648 one female swept from *Juncus inflexus* L., 2.vii.82 Faggs Wood TQ 9834 one male; 27.x.82 Murston TQ 928648 four teneral females swept from *Juncus inflexus* L. Collin (1951) states 'The species may prove to be one which hibernates as an adult', and the dates of my female specimens would seem to support this. The larvae develop in the leaf bases of *Juncus* spp.

OPOMYZIDAE

Geomyza venusta (Meigen). 14.viii.82 Darland Bank, Gillingham TQ 7965. Three males and two females were obtained by sweeping the rank vegetation on this chalk slope. The site is similar to that at Downe NNR where Mr. A. A. Allen recorded the species in 1973. (Allen, 1977).

CANACEIDAE

Canace nasica Haliday. 3.viii.82 Milton Creek, Murston TQ

922653. A single specimen of this small fly was swept from bare mud at dusk (c. 19.30hrs).

CALLIPHORIDAE

Cynomya mortuorum (Linne). 31.vii.82 Conyer TQ 9665. A single male of this impressive species was taken from the leaves of *Salix atrocinerea* Brot.

Addendum

Since writing the above, I have taken a single male *Leucozona glaucia* from Berengrave Lane LNR, Rainham TQ 820670 (7.vii.83). It is interesting, but perhaps coincidental, that both my captures have been on the chalk. I have taken further specimens of *Myoleja caesio* from *Sambucus nigra*, but to date no material has been reared from the fruits of that species. *Geomyza venusta* was taken at Queen-down Warren, Hartlip TQ 828628 in May 1983.

Acknowledgements

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References

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THE HUMMING BIRD HAWK MOTH IN SCOTLAND. — While on Arran recently I found a specimen of this moth, apparently not long dead, in the Dining Hall of Arran Outdoor Centre, Shiskine. It was found on the 12th July 1984. — A. F. JOHNSTON, 17 The moors, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 2AH.